



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Officials Remind Returning Students of Boston Road Height Restrictions

Boston- Friday, August 28, 2015- Today, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Carol Sanchez joined with Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack and Massachusetts State Police (MSP) Colonel Richard McKeon to urge returning students to be mindful of vehicle height restrictions on Storrow Drive, Memorial Drive, and Soldiers Field Road during the upcoming college move-in period. Since 2007, there have been 25 recorded height restriction based incidents on the three Charles River adjacent roads with a concentration around college move-in and move-out dates.

"Together with the Department of Conservation and the Massachusetts State Police, MassDOT is encouraging drivers to be aware of height restrictions for all bridges throughout our state," **said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack.** "It is important that we remind all visitors of the height limitations that exist along our roadways with the goal of keeping our highways safer for travel."

In anticipation of the annual influx of traffic on height restricted roads, DCR, MassDOT and MSP have begun active outreach to the following groups to remind the public of the restrictions:

- Educational institutions asking them to notify their students and families,
- GPS companies to include height restrictions on directions, and
- Individual box truck rental companies to remind renters.

Additionally, all three agencies will coordinate additional signage in Greater Boston and social media outreach to remind the general public of the height restrictions.

"The roads along the Charles River are a vital access point for the hundreds of thousands of students returning to Boston from around the world within the next few weeks," **said DCR Commissioner Carol Sanchez.** "I urge all drivers, students and nonstudents alike, to remain constantly vigilant and heed posted height restrictions during this busy period."

"Motorists driving box trucks or moving trucks are reminded to watch for signs on roadways indicating bridge height restrictions, especially on the river roads, and not to rely solely on electronic GPS devices," **State Police Colonel Richard D. McKeon said.** "As we welcome college students back to our state, we wish them an enjoyable semester, and ask them to be mindful of basic safety practices, both on the roadways and while on foot on and around campus."

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Carol Sanchez, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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